

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ARA-06 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

EB-08 IO-13 /093 W

-----261030 058430 /15

R 260625Z FEB 77

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4392

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

COMNAVTELCOM WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

COMIDEASTFOR

NAVCOMMUNIT ASMARA

NAVCOMMSTA NEA MAKRI

CNO WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 0158

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PFOR ET CU

SUBJECT: ERITREA: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

REF: ASMARA 0153 (DTG 241350Z FEB 77)

1. THE CUBAN DELEGATION HEADED BY GENERAL ULNERIO UKOA, WHO WAS IDENTIFIED IN AL WAHDA, ASMARA'S ARABIC NEWSPAPER, AS A MEMBER OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE CUBAN COMMUNIST PARTY, DEPARTED FOR ADDIS IN THE LATE AFTERNOON OF FEB 24 (REFTEL). PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE, HE WAS GIVEN A MAKESHIFT TOUR OF LOCAL INDUSTRIES, VISITING THE ONLY OPERATING PLANTS; MELOTTI BREWERY, SAVA GLASS CO., AND NATIONAL OIL CO. HE WAS THEN GIVEN A BRIEF DEMONSTRATION
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OF SMALL ARMS AND ARTILLERY BY THE ARMY, AND FINALLY WAS GIVEN A ROUSING SENDOFF TO THE AIRPORT AT A RALLY AT SECOND DIVISION HQ. IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE LOCAL EPMG AUTHORITIES WERE RELIEVED THAT THE DELEGATION LEFT WITHOUT SPENDING A SECOND NIGHT IN THE CITY, BY WHICH TIME THE INSURGENTS WOULD MOST LIKELY STAGE SOME FIREWORKS FOR ITS BENEFIT.

2. THE FUEL SITUATION IN THE CITY EASED DURING THE WEEK AS THE MASSAWA CONVOY, CARRYING MOSTLY AVGAS, RETURNED WITHOUT INCIDENT ON FEB 22. THE NEXT DAY GASOLINE SALES WERE RESUMED, ALTHOUGH THERE WAS STILL NO DISTRIBUTION OF KEROSENE. FOUR NORTHBOUND INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS OVERFLEW ASMARA FROM FEB 19 TO 22 FOR LACK OF AVGAS. IT IS EXPECTED THAT ETHIOPIAN AIRLINES WILL RETURN TO ITS SCHEDULED STOPS IN ASMARA ON FEB 26. THIS ONE ROUND-TRIP TO MASSAWA WAS A BOOST TO THE LOCAL FUEL SITUATION, YET FOR THE NEXT THREE DAYS NO CONVOY HAS ATTEMPTED A TRIP, PRESAGING ANOTHER MINI-SHORTAGE.

3. IN THE MILITARY SECTOR, THE SITUATION WAS QUIET DURING THE LATTER PART OF THE WEEK. PRESSURE HAS APPARENTLY BEEN RELIEVED FROM THE EPMG FORCE AT ELABERET, AND THERE HAS BEEN NO FURTHER EFFORT TO ESCORT THE ASSEMBLED CONVOY TO ADI UGRI. THE LATTER MISSION WILL PROBABLY BE UNDERTAKEN IN A FEW DAYS, NOW THAT THE FOREIGN DIGNITARIES HAVE DEPARTED AND THE ELABERET CONFLICT HAS SUBSIDED.
WAUCHOPE

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Message Attributes

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